

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 PC-04 RSR-01 EB-11

/163 W

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R 041210 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2863

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 414

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 1135

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MOPS, BY, TZ

SUBJ: BURUNDI APOLOGIZES TO TANZANIA

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1023

1. APRIL 4 TANZANIAN PRESS HIGHLIGHTED BURUNDI APOLOGY FOR MARCH 15 ATTACK ON TANZANIAN VILLAGES WHICH LEFT 74 PEOPLE DEAD. BURUNDI AMBASSADOR MANGONA, FOLLOWING RECENT VISIT TO VILLAGES, CALLED ON GOT FONMIN MALECELA APRIL 3 IN ORDER CONVEY GOB "SINCERE APOLOGIES" OVER INCIDENT. MANGONA ADMITTED THAT ATTACK TOOK PLACE INSIDE TANZANIA, ADDING THAT BURUNDI SECURITY FORCES HAD ORDERS TO CONDUCT POLICE OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS INSIDE SOUTHERN PART OF BURUNDI. UNFAMILIARITY WITH BORDER LED TO ATTACK IN TANZANIA. MANGONA SAID GOB WILL DO

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EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SUCH INCIDENT
AND WILL PAY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

2. MALECEL A SAID TANZANIA ACCEPTS GOB APOLOGY, ADDING BARB
THAT TANZANIA'S BORDER WITH BURUNDI IS WELL MARKED. HE SHARED
MANGONA'S VIEW THAT INCIDENT WAS ISOLATED ONE BUT EMPHASIZED
"IT SHOULD NEVER BE REPEATED".

3. GOVERNMENT- OWNED DAILY NEWS REPORTED ON MARCH 31 THAT
TANZANIAN VILLAGERS ALONG TANZANIA- BURUNDI BORDER IN KIGOMA
REGION HAD APPEALED TO TANU AND GOVERNMENT FOR MILITIA
TRAINING IN ORDER TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ENEMIES.
KIGOMA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER SAID PLANS ARE UNDER WAY TO
PROVIDE REQUESTED TRAINING. VILLAGERS ALSO URGED GOVERNMENT
TO MOVE BURUNDI REFUGEES FROM BORDER AREA AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE.

4. EMBASSY UNABLE TO CONFIRM RUMOR APRIL 3 THAT TANZANIA HAD
QUIETLY STOPPED ALL TRANSIT OF GOODS TO AND FROM BURUNDI,
PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO INCREASE PRESSURE FOR OBTAINING APOLOGY
FROM GOB.

5. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW TANGOV HANDLED THIS INCIDENT WITH
USUALLY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR IN DEFT, SKILLFUL MANNER. TANZANIA
CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED SITE OF ATTACK BEFORE ACCUSING GOB.
WHEN BURUNDI FONMIN DENIED CHARGES, TANZANIA SLOWLY STEPPED
UP VERBAL CHARGES AND INSISTED THAT BURUNDI AMBASSADOR IN
TANZANIA VISIT SITE. DURING INTERVAL BETWEEN BURUNDI
AMBASSADOR'S AGREEMENT TO VISIT SITE AND DELIVERY OF HIS
APOLOGY TO GOT, TANZANIA RELAXED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN, THOUGH
MAY HAVE HINTED EFFECTIVELY AT POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC
BLOCKADE GOODS DESTINED FOR BURUNDI. ULTIMATELY,
TANZANIA NOT ONLY RECEIVED GRACIOUS APOLOGY BUT PROMISE BY
GOB TO PAY COMPENSATION. EMBASSY BELIEVES BURUNDI- TANZANIAN
RELATIONS WILL QUICKLY RETURN TO NORMAL, BARRING ADDITIONAL
UNEXPECTED INCIDENTS.

CARTER

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